

HONORING JOEL L. DERETCHIN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joel L. Deretchin, a great community leader and a dear friend. Mr. Deretchin has held numerous leadership roles throughout the community in The Woodlands, Texas. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Deretchin has served several executive positions with many respected organizations in the Woodlands area. He held leadership positions at The Woodlands Development Company, served as a board member of The Woodlands Community Association, and served as President and sitting board member of both the Woodlands Association and the Woodlands Commercial Owners Association.

Mr. Deretchin has strived to keep the community focused on improving education in The Woodlands by supporting and establishing The University Center, The John Cooper School and the Academy for Lifelong Learning at Montgomery College—all which have given valuable opportunities to students in and around The Woodlands community. The Conroe Independent School District has recognized and honored Mr. Deretchin's achievements by naming one of their elementary schools in his honor, the Joel L. Deretchin K-6 Elementary School.

As you can see, he has truly impacted innumerable lives in The Woodlands community. His servant leadership on the Interfaith of the Woodlands Board and the South Montgomery County/Woodlands Chamber of Commerce Board are clearly evident as he continuously volunteers his time and lends a hand to organizations and non-profits.

For his countless service efforts, Mr. Deretchin was awarded "Citizen of the Year" by the South Montgomery County/Woodlands Chamber of Commerce in 1990. He was also honored in 1999 as a "Hometown Hero" during the Woodlands 25th Anniversary Celebration. While these awards and honors are significant, nothing can truly commemorate the extent of service Mr. Deretchin has provided for his community. His leadership and commitment to The Woodlands is selfless and something that merits applauding.

His compassionate heart as well as his desire to help others has continued to drive him to remain active throughout the community—he never expected to say he is one of our residents. The Woodlands has more than benefited from his leadership, knowledge and philanthropic focus.

Madam Speaker, it is such an honor to recognize Joel Deretchin as a significant part of The Woodlands' community and pay tribute to his contributions to the people of The Woodlands as he retires, however there is no doubt in my mind that he will continue be heavily involved! I urge you to join me in recognizing Mr. Deretchin and his achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEWART WINSTEIN

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in sorrow at the news of the death of Stewart Winstein, from Rock Island, Illinois in my Congressional District.

Stewart was one of the most respected and admired leaders in my community and built a strong reputation for local activism, public service and the belief that politics could be a driving force for positive change in the lives of everyday Americans. It is a legacy that will be sorely missed in Rock Island, the city that Stewart loved and called home.

As a child of the Great Depression, Stewart and his family faced great poverty. It was a powerful influence on him and I am sure informed much of his success as an attorney and a founding force of the Rock Island Democratic Party.

As one of the greatest advocates for working men and women that I knew, I think his legacy will be that he wanted to make sure that other families didn't have to face the economic hardships that he knew too well. And as many in the Quad Cities can attest, whether it was working people or the vast number of clients he represented through his law firm, it is a legacy of great success.

Stewart put much of his energy and drive into the legal practice he built. He started practicing law in 1938 and established an early reputation as a formidable attorney. In 1960, he founded the firm of Winstein, Kavensky and Wallace with his two partners. The firm thrived and grew through his drive and dedication.

Stewart was dedicated not only to the long-term growth of the Quad Cities but also to his mission of public service. His title and positions in the community and local government were numerous, including his long-time service as chairman of the Quad City International Airport Authority, his stint as President of the Rock Island County Welfare Information and Referral Services, and his role as the public administrator, public guardian and conservator for Rock Island County from 1974 to 1978.

The people he has inspired to pursue public service in West Central Illinois and throughout our state are almost too numerous to count, but all of them can testify that he was an inspiration and a mentor as they have pursued their callings. Stewart had a huge impact on my life and my career of public service. He was a valuable teacher who led by example and I learned by witnessing the contributions he made to the Democratic Party, numerous charities, and local government. Above all, I was proud to call him my friend. My thoughts go out to Stewart's family, especially his beloved son Arthur.

RECOGNIZING THE MT. VERNON ROTARY FOR 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 90th anniversary of an important community service organization in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

The Mt. Vernon Rotary Club was founded in 1920 and has grown into a vital element of the community. For the past 90 years, the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club, like Rotary clubs all across our nation, has brought together local business leaders in a friendly, casual setting, where they discuss ways to band together and serve the community. I applaud the willingness of these Rotarians to step forward and serve their community.

At the 90th anniversary celebration, this year's Rotary Club President Dan Boehmer summed up the spirit of the Rotary Club when he told the Mt. Vernon Register-News, "There's such a rich history of people who have done so many things in the community for the sake of service itself. When you get people together who know how to get things done, you get a lot done in the community."

I want to congratulate Mr. Boehmer and all the members of the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club, past and present, on celebrating their 90th anniversary, and to join with the other Members of this House in wishing them continued success for another 90 years and beyond.

HONORING GARY RAFFIA

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose generosity and service to his community made this past Memorial Day an unforgettable one. Gary Raffia of Enfield designed and built a spectacular float for the town's Memorial Day Parade—one which served as a powerful tribute to our state's fallen heroes during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gary's star-shaped float was draped in a banner displaying the name and picture of every Connecticut soldier who paid the ultimate price for their nation since 2001. The perimeter of the float was decorated with American flags.

Along with everyone present at Enfield's Memorial Day Parade, I was truly moved by Gary's tremendous act of citizenship. Not only did he design and build this float, but he paid for the entire project. Gary is a local farmer by trade and the son of a World War II veteran. It was his friend Teddy, also a veteran, and many others in the community that compelled Gary to build this float. His tribute to Connecticut's fallen soldiers was a selfless act that embodies the support and gratitude our troops deserve on Memorial Day and throughout the year. By creating this float and including it in the parade, Gary honored equally those soldiers who were fortunate enough to come home and those who were not.

Gary is a man with a history of making his visions become a reality—much to the benefit